



USDA Farm Bill Forum

Comment Card

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Response to Ques. #'s 2 + 3: There is no question that a national animal identification system (NAIS) will significantly enhance our nation's ability to effectively compete in global markets. It is extremely disappointing to see the current chaos and lack of leadership and destination of consensus brought on by NCBA and evidenced at the Oct. 12, 2005 USDA stakeholder meeting in KC, MO. Rising above the splintering that resulted from indicating on Aug. 30 that a private animal tracking

database should be held privately, I am strongly proposing that agricultural policy be adopted to take advantage of the long-admired and consistent and tireless efforts of many to be the most respected and ~~most~~ scientifically creditable Agricultural Research, education, and cooperative extension system in the world - USDA. Please adopt full government control of animal ID tracking database, so we can say "verified" by the USDA, our USDA, and not by some private company that no one knows about. MacDonald's research has long shown that self policing by industry is not perceived as trustworthy to customers. In the beef industry alone, we'll have to spend at least \$50-60M per year annually for tags. Funding a private database is on top of that. This extra "tax" is MORE government, not less. USDA currently supports NASS at \$33M. If you could budget EVEN \$50M per year EACH YEAR OF THE NEXT FARM BILL (2007), we could be more competitive right away versus the current chaos of prolonging implementation. As ONE industry ALONE, let ALONE all the other industries, we ARE SPENDING MORE THAN USDA ^{is the result of}. As I understand it, the government system is ALL READY to go and ^{is the result of} FOUR years of industry CONSENSUS. LET IT HAPPEN - don't TAX US MORE. Let "our" USDA help us - not drive us out of business.